DOMESTIC NATURAL GAS SUPPLY ACT OF 2005

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the ''Domestic Natural Gas Supply Act of 2005''. The purpose of this legislation is to provide adequate funding for the Ultra-deepwater and Unconventional Gas and Other Petroleum Research and Development Program that was established in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The rapid escalation of natural gas prices in recent months since the passage of EP Act 2005 is the most tangible evidence that a natural gas supply problem of truly crisis proportions is looming in this country.

The Congress took a major, first step when it enacted this R&D program and the President signed it into law in August. However, the agreement in the conference report cut the funding to the point that the program is barely viable.

This bill restores funding to the level contained in the House-passed version of EP Act 2005. By enacting this bill into law we will ensure that the program will go forward with the funding necessary to develop and deploy the technologies to produce the tremendous volumes of natural gas that lie underneath the Gulf of Mexico and the onshore areas of the continental United States.

I want to reiterate that this funding does not come from General Revenue. It comes from royalties collected from existing oil and natural gas production. In effect, what we are doing is reinvesting proceeds from the government's assets to produce more oil and gas. The royalties generated by this new production will far exceed the investment in this program, according the University of Texas' Bureau of Economic Geology.

I am pleased to introduce this legislation today, not only because it is good energy policy and good business, but because it will go far towards reducing the dramatic decline in domestic natural gas production that so threatens the economic health and energy security of this country.

SCIENTISTS WHO WILL RECEIVE STEM CELL RESEARCH GRANTS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I came to the House floor to announce that New Jersey had just become the first state in the nation to distribute public funds for human embryonic stem cell research.

I wanted to include in the RECORD a list of the scientists who will receive these stem cell research grants. All grants are approximately $300,000. The scientists, work at a number of different institutions around New Jersey: Rutgers University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, The Coriell Institute for Medical Research, Princeton University, UMDNJ–RWJMS, Amorcyte, Inc.

The New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology voted in a public meeting to—award Stem Cell Research Grants to the following:

T. Arinzeh, Nanofiber Scaffold for Stem Cell Based Cartilage Repair, To test whether stem cells can be used to repair cartilage defects with the potential for providing new tissue engineering therapies that could help cancer patients who have had tumors removed from bones, osteoporosis and other cartilage and tendon damage.

R. Cohen, Training in Human Embryonic Stem Cell Biology, To provide basic and advanced training in the field of human embryonic stem cell biology and to develop a well-trained pool of scientists in New Jersey proficient in hESC culture techniques with the goal of advancing New Jersey's leadership in stem cell research.

R.Hart, Regulation of microRNA Gene Expression in Differentiating Neural Stem Cells, To understand and control differentiation of neural stem cells with the potential to produce specific cell types for therapeutic transplant in brain trauma, stroke, spinal cord injury, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease.

H. Houbaviy, MicroRNAs MiR–290–295 in Blastocyst-Derived Stem Cells and the Early Mouse Embryo, To understand stem cell development and lineage determination with the goal of expanding and improving knowledge of areas of stem cell biology currently not well understood.

I. Lemischka, Genome-Wide Functional Analysis of ES Cell fate Regulation, To understand human embryonic stem cell decisions such as survival/death, renewal/determination and to understand how to maintain or induce specific cell fate with the goal of applying this knowledge to patient therapies.

R. McKinnon, Gliogenic Potential of Human Placental Stem Cells, to identify mechanisms of glial cell generation from human placental cells with the goal of identifying a potential alternative to embryonic stem cells for clinical trials. In collaboration with Celgene, a New Jersey-based biotech firm ranked sixth largest internationally.

K. Moore, Interactive Mechanisms of Stem Cells and Microenvironments, to further understand the mechanisms of stem cell self-renewal and commitment toward the purpose of developing new therapies or advancing existing therapies for use in drug development and for gene and cell therapy for immunological and other diseases.

R. Nowakowski, Molecular Circuitry of ''Stemness'' in the Developing CNS, to learn how to reprogram or teach transplanted cells how to generate the right type and number of necessary cells for cell-replacement therapies with the potential for replacing specific brain areas damaged by disease or injury.

R. Preti, Bone Marrow Derived CD34 Cells for Treatment of Acute Myocardial Infarction, to produce a cell therapy product using bone marrow-derived cells for treatment of coronary damage following a heart attack and advance the company's federal Food and Drug Administration-approved clinical trials with the potential for new and more effective therapy for cardiac patients.

L. Qin, PTH-Mediated AGFR Signaling in Stromal Stem Cell Growth and Multidifferentiation, to conduct fundamental research using bone marrow stem cells with the potential to develop more effective treatments for low bone mass and similar disorders.

M. Roth, Selective Gene Delivery to Human Hematopoietic Stem Cells, to apply novel genetic screening approaches to stem cells with the potential of enhancing the ability to use stem cells and gene therapy in many clinical settings, including treating hematopoietic disorders and cancer.

J. Sadoshima, Mechanisms of Mesenchymal Stem Cell Differentiation, to increase the efficiency of stem cell differentiation into cardiac myocytes by manipulating a particular signaling mechanism with the potential for developing an effective method to repair damaged heart tissues.

B. Saitta, Role of Extracellular Matrix in Cord Blood Stem Cell Response to Cardiac Injury, to use stem cells derived from umbilical cord blood to study the molecular mechanisms of stem cells in repairing damaged areas of the heart with the potential to heal damaged tissue and preserve or regain function, offering an alternative to transplants which are possible but limited by the number of donors.

M. Shen, Role of the Nodal signaling pathway in regulation of embryonic pluripotency, to enhance fundamental understanding of basic molecular functions in mice and human stem cells with the potential for improving manipulation of ES cells in culture for use in stem cell-based therapies including possible insights into the genesis and dysregulation of cancer stem cells.

T. Shenk, Isolation and Characterization of Life-Extended Human Cord Blood Cells, to produce populations of stem cells from human cord blood that can be used to study the molecular characteristics of such cells including how to modulate these growth responses in vivo and in culture with the potential to improve the clinical uses of stem cells.

Y. Shi, Immunobiology of Mesenchymal Stem Cells, to investigate the mechanisms underlying stem cell mediated immune tolerance and its use in treatment of autoimmune disorders with the potential to lead to new treatment for many human diseases in which the immune system attacks the body, including MS and asthma.

J. Tischfield, Genetic and Structural Analysis of Mouse ES Cells and their Derivatives, to study cultured ESC and confirm, monitor and regulate phenomena that would be deleterious to tissues derived from stem cells with the potential to prevent problems that could slow development of stem cell therapies.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT SYMBOLS AND TRADITIONS OF CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE PROTECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, forgive me if I haven't noticed that Christmas is under attack. Being Jewish, maybe I am simply incapable of judging. Silly me, I thought there were about the same number of Christmas trees, both in private homes and public places—that is, everywhere. Seems like Christmas music is still ubiquitous in elevators, grocery stores, the mall and while on hold on the telephone. No? Having just returned from Eastern Market, I still have the sounds of real live carolers in my ears, and, as a former community choir member, I knew all the words and sang along. (Is it anti-Christmas for a Jew to do that? I should check with Bill O'Reilly.)

Santa was there as usual at Congressmen BARTON's and DINGELL's reception for the Energy and Commerce Committee, and adorable little children of Christian conservatives as well as moderates, and yes, even Democrats, were

sitting on his lap. I thought I observed the same mix of awe, fear and delight as in years past, but Jewish eyes can deceive, I guess.

I could be wrong, but I think it would be pretty hard not to guess that it is the ''Christmas season'' or that ''Christmas'' is coming if you turned on just about any channel, cable or broadcast, at just about any time of the day or night. Sometimes those reminders also include a request for you to call in and give your credit card number, and do it now, because there are only a few more days until ''Christmas.''

I'm pretty cheerful about responding to ''Merry Christmas'' with a ''Same to you.'' I can't recall ever scolding anyone in public or in private for missing the fact that I don't celebrate Christmas. I do try not to say it myself at my synagogue, unless I know for sure the person is Christian, and then I try especially hard to say it.

I'm fond of candy canes. They seem to be available for free in many places at this time of year—''Christmas'' time. I try never to pass one up. I even try to like fruit cake, understanding it is one of the typical ''Christmas'' treats, but I think it may be like gefilte fish—an acquired taste.

If there are some Christians who think that Christmas has become too commercial—the symbol of Christmas being more the Visa or Mastercard than the nativity scene—then I think they deserve to have a serious discussion about that. That discussion, in my Jewish view, would be best held in church, or at home, or just about any place other than the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

PASSPORT SERVICES ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Passport Services Enhancement Act of 2005, H.R. 4501. This bill would amend the Passport Act of June 4, 1920, to authorize the Secretary of State to establish and collect a surcharge to cover the costs of meeting the increased demand for passports as a result of actions taken to comply with section 7209(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. I am pleased that we will be funding this security measure required by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act. I look forward to a time when all of the security measures in that Act have been funded.

The failure to fully fund the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act is an indication that Congress has not allotted enough resources to deal with the requirements for security in the fight against terrorism. Another example is the failure to enact my Rapid Response Border Protection Act of 2005, H.R. 4044, which would provide critical resources and support for the men and women who secure our borders, which is essential to our defense against terrorism.

The resources and support in my bill would include the addition of 15,000 Border Patrol agents over the next five years, which would increase the number of agents from 11,000 to 26,000. With more than 8,000 miles of land and coastal borders to patrol continuously, it is evident that this increase is desperately needed if any semblance of control is to be achieved. The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would be required to respond rapidly to border crises by deploying up to 1,000 additional Border Patrol agents to a State in which a border security emergency has been declared by the Governor. It also would include 100,000 more detention beds to ensure that those who are apprehended entering the United States unlawfully are sent home instead of being released into our communities. It would assist in cracking down on the problem of fraudulent documents used to enter unlawfully and remain in the United States by adding specialized enforcement agents and establishing cooperative mechanisms with State and local law enforcement agencies. And it includes provisions for critical equipment and infrastructure improvements, such as additional helicopters, power boats, police-type vehicles, portable computers, reliable radio communications, handheld GPS devices, body armor, and night-vision equipment.

Those who object to the cost of such security measures need to recall the enormous costs, not just in monetary terms, of the last terrorist attacks. As Benjamin Franklin wisely noted nearly 270 years ago, ''an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.'' The total cost of my border security bill would only be a very small fraction of the amount being spent fighting terrorism overseas. If we want to prevent another terrorist attack on American soil, we must be prepared to devote whatever resources are necessary to keeping terrorists out of our country. This legislation is designed to help provide more resources for the now required greater utilization of the U.S. passport because of the 9/11 tragedy. Americans will need more passports and the State Department will need more staff. The same can be said for our border security taking short cuts and scrimping on homeland security as this only serves as an open invitation to future disastrous attacks.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House and to acknowledge the innovative work of the National Center for Sustainable Development (NCSD) a national 501 c 3 nonprofit corporation headquartered here in Washington, DC and doing good work in my home state of Texas through its Dallas and Austin offices to restore urban and suburban contaminated real estate to new productive use. The Center is now undertaking potentially significant initiatives involving both energy production and air quality in local communities in the recycling of waste products to biodiesel. As Texas is the historic home of innovation and creativity in the use of natural and man made resources, my purpose is to encourage the pilot initiative being undertaken by the Center in the city of Texarkana focusing on the recycling of commercial and industrial food waste products currently a significant threat to the proper maintenance and efficiency of municipal waste water treatment facilities.

The initiative which I seek recognition for will produce biodiesel from a waste stream currently which is a constraint on the development of services and small business serving the community of Texarkana and placing a burden on the infrastructure that assures proper and environmentally appropriate disposal of grease and waste oils. The undertaking of such a pilot program in Texarkana, Texas is not by chance. The operations of the pilot will be located in an industrial park next to the Red River Army Depot, the main focus of which is the refurbishment and maintenance of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and the Humvees currently supporting our mission in Iraq. A portion of the biodiesel rendered from this initiative will be made available to RRAD for their use in testing its properties for both quality as a fuel and its properties as a cleaner burning replacement for conventional petroleum based diesel fuel.

As Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality I recognize that many are pursuing the goals of increased efficiency and air quality that biodiesel holds for helping to satisfy the domestic need for diesel fuel, now in short supply, and that many methods are being evaluated, but my hope is that NCSD can help create and encourage energy production from existing resources now perceived as obstacles to sustainable growth in my district and elsewhere.

By the House and Committee's acknowledgement of the initiative of the National Center for Sustainable Development I am asking for their report on the progress of the Texarkana facility at the milestone of their first six full months of operations. The subcommittee will be interested in the results of this initiative for both its applications for energy production and for improved air quality. I will close by reiterating my support for this worthy initiative and to follow their progress as an example for use by the subcommittee in its critical work.

EXPLANATION OF MISSED VOTES

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 15, 2005, I was admitted to the hospital upon suffering a heart attack. As a result, I missed three days of votes. I ask that my statement be placed in the appropriate part of the record to reflect how I would have voted on the following rollcall votes, had I been present.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2005:

Nay: On agreeing to the Jackson-Lee (TX) amendment Failed by recorded vote: 162–252 (roll No. 639). An amendment numbered 8 printed in Part B of House Report 109–347 to provide guidelines for implementing the secured alternatives to detention provision in section 402(a).

Aye: On agreeing to the Hunter amendment Agreed to by recorded vote: 260–159 (roll No. 640). An amendment numbered 11 printed in Part B of House Report 109–347 to mandate